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THE Demand and Price SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D. C. **BAE** SEPTEMBER 1951

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 3, 1951

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SUMMARY

Economic activity in September continued at a high level. High employment and wage rates resulted in personal income payments in July at an annual rate of almost 252 billion dollars. This was about 13 percent above a year ago. However, despite record levels of economic activity, consumer buying has moderated since the first quarter of this year. Consumer expenditures in the second quarter were at an annual rate of 202 billion dollars, down 6 billion from the first quarter rate. Retail sales reported for August were up 2 percent from July, after seasonal adjustment, and slightly above the second quarter level. Sales at department stores increased a little again in August. There is, however, no evidence of a substantial pick-up in sales for the third quarter. Reduced consumer demand and continued high output of consumer goods resulted in inventory accumulation in the second quarter at a record annual rate of over 14 billion dollars. Although business inventories continued to rise in the third quarter, the rate of accumulation was considerably slower and the build-up was primarily in defense goods-in-process. Inventories of finished goods held by retailers and wholesalers continued the decline of recent months.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Item	Unit or base period	1950		1951			
		Year	Aug.	May	June	July	Aug.
Industrial production <u>1/</u>							
Total.....	1935-39=100	200	209	223	222	213	218
All manufactures.....	do.	209	218	233	232	223	228
Durable goods.....	do.	237	247	276	275	266	269
Nondurable goods.....	do.	187	195	198	198	189	194
Minerals.....	do.	148	159	165	166	156	165
Construction activity <u>1/</u>							
Contracts, total.....	1935-39=100	514	582	629	652	528	505
Contracts, residential.....	do.	748	887	676	708	730	711
Wholesale prices <u>2/</u>							
All commodities.....	1926=100	162	166	183	182	182	178
All commodities except farm and food.....	do.	153	156	172	170	169	167
Farm products.....	do.	170	178	200	199	194	191
Food.....	do.	166	175	187	186	186	187
Prices received and paid by farmers <u>3/</u>							
Prices received, all prod....	1910-14=100	256	267	305	301	294	292
Prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates.....	do.	255	257	283	282	282	282
Parity ratio.....	do.	100	104	108	107	104	104
Consumers' price <u>2/ 4/</u>							
Total.....	1935-39=100	172	173	185	185	186	186
Food.....	do.	204	210	227	227	228	227
Nonfood.....	do.	154	154	164	164	164	164
Income							
Nonagricultural payments <u>5/</u> ...	Bil. dol.	206.6	208.6	229.0	230.1	229.2	
Income of industrial workers <u>3/</u>	1935-39=100	369	392	424	429	422	
Production worker pay rolls <u>2/</u>	do.	396	420	456	464	453	
Weekly earnings of factory workers <u>2/</u>							
All manufacturing.....	Dollars	59.23	60.32	64.55	65.32	64.56	
Durable goods.....	do.	63.19	64.33	69.39	70.39	68.92	
Nondurable goods.....	do.	54.66	55.65	58.01	58.47	58.78	
Employment							
Total civilian <u>6/</u>	Millions	60.0	62.4	61.2	61.8	62.5	62.6
Nonagricultural <u>6/</u>	do.	52.4	54.2	53.8	53.8	54.6	54.9
Agricultural <u>6/</u>	do.	7.5	8.2	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.7
Government finance (Federal) <u>7/</u>							
Income, cash operating.....	Mil. dol.	3,538	3,524	4,148	7,367		
Outgo, cash operating.....	do.	3,497	3,009	5,154	5,223		
Net cash operating income or outgo.....	do.	+ 40	+ 514	-1,006	+2,144		

Annual data for the years 1929-49 appear on page 32 of the April 1951 issue of The Demand and Price Situation.

1/ Federal Reserve Board, construction activity converted to 1935-39 base.

2/ U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 3/ U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, to convert prices received and prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates to the 1935-39 base, multiply by .93110 and .79872 respectively. 4/ Consumers' price index for moderate-income families in large cities. 5/ U. S. Department of Commerce revised figures, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. 6/ U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 7/ U. S. Department of Treasury. Data for 1950 are on average monthly basis.

The relatively lighter demand for many consumer goods during the summer was accompanied by a gradual decline in the general level of wholesale prices which in late September was 4 percent below the high in mid-March. Prices received by farmers averaged 7 percent lower in mid-September than in mid-February. Crops averaged 16 percent below mid-February levels, largely a reflection of this year's large production. Prices of livestock and livestock products were only slightly lower in September than in February. Wholesale prices of industrial commodities have declined about 4 percent since their peak in mid-March, with a sharp drop in textile prices and moderate declines in prices of building materials and of chemicals. Retail prices, as represented by the BLS index of consumer prices and the BAE index of prices paid by farmers, including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates, are at or close to the highs of the year. The parity ratio which had risen to 113 in February, was 103 in September.

Prospects in early September indicated farm output for sale and home consumption in 1951 at a record level of close to 45 percent above 1935-39 and some 4 or 5 percent above last year. Industrial production in August was up 5 points from the low level in July but still was 5 points below the recent peak of 223 (1935-39=100) in April 1951. The decline reflects primarily materials restrictions for some durable goods, including automobiles, and production cut-backs in some industries because of an easing demand and ample inventory stocks of many consumer goods.

Rising personal incomes, record demand by business for plant and equipment and rising requirements for defense should assure a continuing strong demand for most goods and services. However, the rapid build-up of industrial productive capacity, the substantial inventories of many consumer goods, and the prospective record output of farm products should serve to moderate any upward pressure on prices over the next few months.

Commodity Highlights

Hog slaughter this year is expected to continue above last year, and to reach its peak in December. Recently, prices have been below a year earlier and for the season may average a little less than last fall. Cattle slaughter, which is currently below last year, should reach a peak soon. Cattle prices are expected to continue fairly steady, although some weakening may occur at times of heaviest marketings. Prices received by farmers for whole milk continue to rise seasonally. Egg prices have receded from the mid-September high level, and may have reached their seasonal peak. Output of edible vegetable oils in the year beginning October 1951 may total about 10 percent larger than the record 1950-51 production of 4.4 billion pounds. Corn prices recently have been above the support level. Feed prices during the coming year will reflect the prospective strong demand for food and support prices above those for the 1950 crop. Apples and grapes will be lower in price this year because of larger supplies, and oranges and grapefruit should decline seasonally beginning in October. Average prices received by farmers for all wheat were a little below the national average loan level in September. Relatively short supplies of commercial truck crops for fresh market this fall and current strong demand are expected to result in substantially higher prices this fall than last. Cotton prices moved slowly upward in September after falling to near the loan level. Average prices received by farmers for shorn wool in mid-September declined for the sixth month in succession. Total supply of flue-cured tobacco for the 1950-51 marketing year will be at a record level and the supply of Durley will be slightly larger than in 1950-51.

OUTPUT AND EMPLOYMENT

Industrial production was up slightly in August from the seasonally low July level, but failed to regain the March-June level. The Federal Reserve Board index of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation, in August was 218 (1935-39=100), compared with 213 in July and 222 in June. The index stood at 209 during August of last year.

The output of durable manufacturers, at 269 percent of 1935-39, was down about 2 percent from June. The combined August output of producers' equipment, including defense items, held steady at the high level reached late in the spring. However, production of consumer durable goods continued less than in June and earlier peak months. Steel output in August continued close to recent highs. While motor vehicle output recovered slightly, activity in the automobile industry was still below June, largely because of restrictions on the use of critical metals. The National Production Authority recently announced a further cut in steel allotments for automobile manufacturers, who will be limited during the fourth quarter to 60 percent of the average quarterly rate of use in the base period (first half of 1950). It is estimated that this allotment will permit a production of about 1.1 million cars in the fourth quarter of this year, compared with 1.7 million in the same quarter of 1950. Lumber output in August was also slightly less than in June, while activity in most other durable goods industries showed little change.

Although recovering somewhat from July, activity in textile mills in August was below June levels as demand for textiles remained relatively weak. Production of chemicals and chemical products continued to rise, and output of rubber and rubber products almost regained the June level. Production of nondurable goods as a whole was 2 percent less than in June and fractionally down from August a year earlier.

Production of minerals in August followed a similar pattern, recovering partially as soft coal miners returned to work from July vacations. Crude petroleum production rose slightly, setting a new record. At 165, the index of total production of minerals was 6 percent above July and a little below June.

July marked another increase in manufacturers' unfilled orders. The backlog of 55.6 billion dollars at the end of July was 1 billion greater than a month before, as sales during the month declined more than did the volume of new orders placed with manufacturers. While non-durable goods again declined by almost half a billion dollars during the month, those of durable goods manufacturers advanced a total of 1.5 billion dollars. Manufacturers' inventories, estimated at 40.4 billion dollars, after adjustment for seasonal factors, were up about 1 percent during July. The rise was less than half as large as those of several previous months and centered almost entirely in the durable-goods industries, where virtually all groups registered gains. Inventories in the nondurable goods industries were practically unchanged from June.

Total construction expenditures in August were up a little from July, rising around 1 percent, from 2,770 million dollars to 2,802 million. The August 1951 construction outlay was only 0.5 percent under last year but it represents a significantly smaller physical volume of work put in place in view of price increases since August 1950.

Total private outlays for new construction declined fractionally during August to 1,865 million dollars but were almost 11 percent below August last year. The slight decline from July was due almost entirely to a contraseasonal drop of 2 percent in private residential building, and an 11 percent decline in commercial building. Private home building expenditures were estimated at 920 million dollars, compared with 1,322 million in August 1950, a drop of 30 percent in dollar volume alone. Reduced activity in these areas continues to reflect the effects of restrictions on building. Industrial construction registered another rise (4 percent) in August to a level double that of a year ago.

An increase from July of 4.2 percent in public construction outlays to 937 million dollars in August more than offset the decline in private construction expenditures. Atomic energy projects, military projects, and highway construction accounted for most of the rise. Public construction this August was 29 percent above the 727 million dollars spent for this purpose in August 1950.

About 85,000 new non-farm dwelling units were placed under construction during August. This total was slightly less than the 86,000 units begun in July and was 40 percent below the August level last year. An increase from July of about 3 percent in the number of private housing starts, which totaled 84,600 in August, was more than offset by a decline in the number of public units begun during the month, resulting in the reduction in total housing starts from July to August. The greater activity in private housing construction during August occurred in virtually all sections of the country. While credit restrictions and allocation of critical materials will result in total non-farm dwelling starts for 1951 well below 1950, the 758,000 units begun through August of this year indicate that the original Government goal of 850,000 housing starts for the year will be exceeded. Total starts may be around a million units for the year.

Another record for total civilian employment was set during August, when the number of workers employed increased to 62.6 million from 62.5 million in July. All of the rise was attributable to expansion of non-agricultural employment from 54.6 million to 54.9 million, a new high record. The increase in this category is accounted for mainly by increased factory employment in both defense and civilian production.

Unemployment in August declined to an estimated 1.6 million, about 300,000 less than in July, and 900,000 below the August 1950 total. The rate of unemployment (unemployment as a percent of the civilian labor force), at 2.5, was the lowest since the end of the war. The decline reflected both the slight rise in employment, and a decline in the civilian labor force of an estimated 200,000 from 64.4 million in July to 64.2 in August, as students began to leave their summer jobs.

INCOME AND RELATED FACTORS

Personal income during July was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 251.6 billion dollars. It was up only slightly from June, but was 28.9 billion greater than in July 1950. The slight increase from June to July came primarily from the seasonal rise in farm income. Agricultural marketings were substantially greater than in the previous month, more than offsetting somewhat lower prices received for farm products.

Mainly because of lower production-worker employment and a drop in average weekly hours of work in durable goods manufacturing during July, total wage and salary receipts declined slightly to an estimated annual rate of 166.1 billion dollars, compared with 143.2 billion in July last year. Total wage receipts in nondurable goods industries were virtually unchanged from June, continuing the relative stability noted in this sector since the first of the year. Government pay roll disbursements continued to rise, reflecting, for the most part, a further increase in the size of the defense establishment.

Sales at department stores scored another slight gain in August. The Federal Reserve Board's seasonally adjusted index for that month was 316 (1935-39=100). At this level sales were 2 percent above July and 5 percent above June, but 6 percent below August 1950, when anticipatory buying was still influencing sales. Dollar sales for January through August this year totaled 4 percent greater than for the same period last year. However, when adjusted for price change, the indicated volume of sales showed a decline of roughly 6 percent from the same period a year ago.

Total retail sales during August, after adjustment for seasonal factors, registered a 2 percent gain over July and were slightly above the second quarter average, although 5 percent below August a year ago. The home furnishings and automotive groups, up 7 and 4 percent, respectively, showed the largest relative gains from July to August. Almost all groups increased their sales during the month, notable exceptions being apparel stores, down 2 percent, and building materials and hardware, down 1 percent. Durable goods sales, on the whole, were up slightly more than those of nondurable goods.

Consumer installment debt during August rose 155 million dollars to an estimated total of 13 billion, reversing a 57 million dollar decline in the total outstanding in July. Reflecting the liberalization of credit terms provided for by recent amendments to the Defense Production Act of 1950, all types of installment debt increased during the month. Automobile sale credit, estimated at 4.1 billion dollars, was up 73 million from July and 27 million from August 1950. Noninstallment credit at the end of August totaled 6.2 billion dollars, 16 million above July and 413 million above August 1950. All categories showed increases, the largest being registered by charge accounts, which rose 7 million dollars.

Total short-term indebtedness of consumers at the end of August was 19.3 billion dollars, up 171 million from July and 464 million above August last year.

COMMODITY PRICES

The general wholesale price level in mid-September was up very slightly from late August. During the week ending September 25, the BLS weekly index of wholesale prices was 177.1 (1926=100), a gain of 0.2 percent for the month. All components showed increases, with the exception of textile products, which dropped sharply by 4.3 percent. Farm products prices rose 1.6 percent during September, and foods advanced 0.6 percent. Although there were gains among all industrial commodities with the exception of textiles, ranging from 1.2 percent for metals and metal products to 0.3 percent for building materials, the average for all other than farm and food prices declined 0.4 percent.

The general wholesale price level during the week ending September 25 was 4.2 percent higher than at the end of September last year. Among the industrial commodities, chemicals and allied products and metals and products accounted for the greatest relative price changes. Prices of building materials were only a little higher than a year ago, and textiles were 0.7 percent below September 1950. Prices of farm products and feeds for the week ending September 25 stood at 16 and 16.1 percent, respectively, above late September a year ago.

Table 1.- Group indexes of wholesale prices, week ended September 25, 1951 with comparisons
(1926=100)

Group	: Week ended Sept. 25, 1951							
	: percentage change from							
	: Week : Week : Week : Week : Week : Week : Week : Week							
	: Sept. 25, : Aug. 28, : Sept. 26, : June 27, : Sept. 25, : Aug. 28, : Sept. 26, : June 27,							
	: 1951	: 1951	: 1950	: 1950	: 1951	: 1950	: 1950	: 1950
All commodities	: 177.1	: 176.8	: 169.9	: 157.4	: + .2	: +4.2	: +12.5	
Farm products	: 191.8	: 188.7	: 179.4	: 165.4	: +1.6	: +6.9	: +16.0	
Foods	: 188.6	: 187.4	: 176.4	: 162.4	: + .6	: +6.9	: +16.1	
All other than farm	: 165.2	: 165.9	: 160.4	: 149.2	: - .4	: +3.0	: +10.7	
and food	: 160.9	: 168.1	: 162.1	: 137.3	: -4.3	: - .7	: +17.2	
Textile products	: 138.6	: 137.8	: 133.1	: 132.8	: + .6	: +2.6	: + 4.4	
Fuel and lighting	: 190.5	: 188.2	: 177.5	: 171.9	: +1.2	: +7.3	: +10.8	
materials	: 222.3	: 221.7	: 220.4	: 203.7	: + .3	: + .9	: + 9.1	
Metals and products	: 141.1	: 140.0	: 130.1	: 114.5	: + .8	: +8.5	: +23.2	
Building materials								
Chemicals and								
allied products								

Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average prices received by farmers were off fractionally in mid-September. At 291 (1910-14=100), the BAE index of average prices received by farmers in September was down 1 point from mid-August. Prices of most crops declined, particularly of truck crops. The price decrease for all crops combined averaged about 2 percent. Prices received for livestock and products increased fractionally. Price rises for poultry and eggs and dairy products were offset by declines in meat animals and wool, which fell 1 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Average prices received by farmers in mid-September 1951 were up 7 percent from the same month in 1950. The increase resulted primarily from higher prices for livestock and livestock products, as prices of crops as a group were down 2 percent from a year ago. Considerably higher prices for truck crops, feed grains and hay, and "other vegetables" (up 28, 11 and 18 percent, respectively) were more than offset by lower prices for cotton, fruit and oil-bearing crops. The average price received by farmers for cotton declined 3 percent from August this year, and was 16 percent below the September 1950 level. Food grains prices in September averaged 5 percent above the same month last year, while oil-bearing crops were down 5 percent. Livestock and livestock product prices in mid-September were 13 percent higher than a year ago. The largest increase, 26 percent, was registered for prices of poultry and eggs, with dairy products, meat animal and wool prices up 14, 10, and 8 percent, respectively.

Table 2.- Group indexes of prices received by farmers, September 15, 1951
with comparisons
(1910-14=100)

Group	Sept. 15,	Aug. 15,	Sept. 15,	September 15, 1951 percent-	
	1951	1951	1950	age change from -	
				Aug. 15, 1951:	Sept. 15, 1950
Food grains	233	234	221	1/	+ 5
Feed grains and hay	216	215	194	2/	+ 11
Cotton	283	291	336	- 3	- 16
Tobacco	423	430	428	- 2	- 1
Oil-bearing crops	288	294	303	- 2	- 5
Fruit	201	207	217	- 3	- 7
Truck crops	161	181	126	-11	+ 28
Other vegetables	192	185	163	+ 4	+ 18
All crops	239	244	243	- 2	- 2
Meat animals	411	416	372	- 1	+ 10
Dairy products	283	277	248	+ 2	+ 14
Poultry and eggs	247	231	196	+ 7	+ 26
Wool	376	433	349	-13	+ 8
Livestock and products	337	336	298	2/	+ 13
Crops and livestock					
and products.....	291	292	272	1/	+ 7

1/ Less than 0.5 percent decrease.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent increase.

The BAE index of prices paid by farmers, including interest, taxes, and wage rates, during September remained at 282 (1910-14=100) for the fourth consecutive month. The index was 8 percent higher than a year ago. The parity ratio of 103 (index of prices received divided by index of prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates) compares with 104 in July and August, and 105 in September last year.

Average prices paid by urban consumers of moderate incomes were unchanged during August, the index remaining at the July level of 185.5 (1935-39=100). This level is 7.3 percent above August a year ago. Rents rose slightly, following the recent amendment to the Defense Production Act, and clothing prices were also up slightly, as fall lines were introduced. Average food prices were down a fraction as fruits and vegetables were seasonally plentiful, but most other foods, notably eggs, were up. The largest price change was in house furnishings, which dropped 0.8 percent from July to August.

Average prices of commodities used in rural family living declined slightly during September, as lower prices of food and building materials more than offset clothing increases. Increases in automobile price ceilings had not generally been put into effect by mid-September. At 268 (1910-14=100), the mid-September index of prices paid for commodities used for family living was 2 points below the record level reached in May, but 6 percent above mid-September a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

In the 12 months ended June 30, 1951 United States exports of agricultural products were valued at 3,409 million dollars, compared with 2,987 million in the preceding year. This was a gain of 422 million dollars or 14 percent. The quantity index of agricultural exports declined 4 percent between the two fiscal years.

One factor contributing to the increase in the value of United States agricultural exports in fiscal 1950-51 was an increase of 13 percent in the gold and dollar holdings of foreign countries at the beginning of fiscal 1950-51 compared with a year earlier. During 1950-51 foreign countries financed out of their own dollar resources about two-thirds of the value of United States agricultural exports of 3.4 billion dollars while in the preceding year they financed only slightly over one-third of the 3.0 billion dollars worth of U. S. agricultural exports. Despite this increase in their dollar expenditure on U. S. agricultural exports in 1950-51 foreign countries were able to increase their gold and dollar holdings by 20 percent during that year. The Korean war, which began in June 1950, gave rise to two factors which tended to cause foreign countries to spend their dollar exchange rather than to continue to hold it. One of these factors was an increase in personal incomes in raw-material-producing countries as a result of post-Korean price increases, and in other countries as a result of full employment and production expansion. The other factor was an attempt by foreign countries to build up their stocks of foods and raw materials in anticipation of expected price increases.

Of the 422 million dollar increase in the total value of agricultural exports, the value of total food exports increased 301 million dollars or 19 percent; and the value of cotton tobacco, and other agricultural non-foods increased 121 million dollars or 9 percent in 1950-51 compared to 1949-50.

Exports of cotton and cotton linters, the most important agricultural export staple, fell 1 percent in value and 27 percent in volume in the 12 months ended June 30, 1951 compared with exports in the preceding 12 months. This decrease in volume of exports was mainly owing to the restriction of cotton and cotton linters exports in fiscal 1950-51 in order to conserve domestic stocks. The value of tobacco exports increased 39 million dollars or 17 percent, although the quantity declined slightly. Part of the increase in value was owing to a shift of exports to countries buying higher priced grades of tobacco. The principal other agricultural non-foods that increased in value between fiscal years were soybeans with an increase of 37 million dollars and crude soybean oil with an increase of 15 million dollars. The net increase in the value of exports of cotton, linters, unmanufactured tobacco, soybeans, and crude soybean oil in 1950-51 over the previous year was 83 million out of the 121 million dollar increase between fiscal years for all agricultural non-foods.

The value of food exports in 1950-51 totaled 1,883 million dollars, an increase of 301 million over the previous year. This increase in the value of food exports reversed a downward trend that had been underway since the postwar peak in fiscal 1947-48. This downtrend was associated with the postwar recovery of agricultural production in Europe. The reversal is

probably temporary since it was owing in large part to a combination of exceptional circumstances. For example, wheat and flour exports in 1950-51 totaled 365 million bushels, up 67 million from the previous year. Nearly half the gain represented increased exports to India and Yugoslavia because of drought conditions in those countries. In addition there was a relatively short 1950 wheat crop in the Southern Hemisphere and a considerable part of the Canadian crop was below export grade.

Of the total increase of 301 million dollars in the value of our food exports between fiscal years, exports of wheat and flour accounted for 68 million dollars. Exports of grain sorghums accounted for 64 million dollars of the rise, largely owing to the use of grain sorghums for food in a number of countries, particularly India. Exports of corn accounted for 36 million dollars of the increase, barley 22 million, tallow 37 million, and lard 26 million dollars. These six foods accounted for an increase of 253 million dollars of the total.

Table 3.- Value of exports of United States agricultural products in specified periods

Period	Cotton including linters	Tobacco unmanu- factured	Other agri- cultural non-foods	Grain and prepa- rations	Other foods	Grand total agri- cultural
	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.	Mil.dol.
1935-39						
Annual average	318	128	29	95	178	748
1947						
Total	427	271	181	1,881	1,197	3,957
1948						
Total	511	215	150	1,715	881	3,472
1949						
1st quarter	252	52	74	434	214	1,026
2nd quarter	272	40	84	385	225	1,006
3rd quarter	103	84	49	343	147	726
4th quarter	247	76	51	300	146	820
Total 1949	874	252	258	1,462	732	3,578
1950						
1st quarter	302	31	61	210	113	717
2nd quarter	297	44	60	181	142	724
3rd quarter	188	80	39	209	117	633
4th quarter	237	96	87	238	144	802
Total 1950	1,024	251	247	838	516	2,876
1951						
1st quarter	253	49	82	344	163	891
2nd quarter	263	49	103	446	222	1,083

FARM INCOME

Farmers received about 21.7 billion dollars from marketings in the first 9 months of 1951. This was 14 percent more than they received in the corresponding period last year, although the total volume of marketings was about the same as a year ago.

Cash receipts from livestock and livestock products were about 14.1 billion dollars in the first 9 months, or 23 percent above last year. All the major livestock groups shared in the increase. Poultry and egg receipts were up 31 percent, meat animals 22 percent, and dairy products 18 percent. Crop receipts were around 7.6 billion dollars, nearly the same as in the first 9 months of 1950. Higher average prices of crops were offset by a smaller volume of sales. Receipts from wheat, corn, and fruits were lower than a year ago, but those from cotton and vegetables were higher. Tobacco receipts were largely unchanged.

Total cash receipts from marketings in September were around 3.4 billion dollars, 13 percent above August because of larger marketings, and 15 percent above last September because of higher average prices. Receipts from livestock and products in September were 1.7 billion dollars, about the same as the month before, but 10 percent higher than a year earlier. Receipts from meat animals were slightly above those in August, owing to larger marketings. They were 6 percent over September last year, although marketings were down. Increased marketings and higher prices both contributed to an increase of 8 percent in receipts from poultry and eggs compared with August, and to a 25 percent increase over a year ago. Receipts from dairy products were down seasonally, although they were about 12 percent above last year.

Crop receipts in September were around 1.7 billion dollars. This was 30 percent more than in August and 20 percent above last September, despite lower average prices in both cases. Receipts from most crops were up seasonally from August especially for cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and potatoes; but those from wheat were lower. Receipts from most of the principal crops were above a year ago.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Hog slaughter up to late September has been exceptionally large for the season. It probably will increase less rapidly than usual from now until December, when the seasonal peak is expected. Federally inspected slaughter was 17 percent larger in August and around 10 to 12 percent larger in September than in the same months of 1950, but the percentage gain over a year earlier will drop further by the year's end.

The large early slaughter reflects in part the greater number of early farrowings last winter. It also is evidence that the trend toward feeding for quick maturity, which has been under way since the war, is continuing. There have been no big marketings of light, unfinished hogs. Market receipts of sows, and of heavy barrows and gilts from fall farrowings have been larger this fall than last. Average market weights have been about the same as at the beginning of the season last year.

Prices of hogs, particularly for the lighter weights, declined in August and early September, and a general seasonal reduction is likely until about December. Prices have been below a year earlier and for the season may average a little less than last fall.

Hog prices are now near an average relationship to the price of corn. During most of the past 3 years the hog-corn price ratio has been above average. As a result of the lower ratio and of prospects for a corn crop about the same as last year, little if any increase is likely in the 1952 spring pig crop.

Cattle slaughter, now rising seasonally, will reach a peak within a few weeks, but it is questionable whether the fourth quarter slaughter will reach that for the like period last year. Large marketings of cattle from dry areas of Texas and Oklahoma have gone chiefly to pastures and feedlots elsewhere rather than to slaughter. Movement out of other range areas is late this year. Fed cattle marketings from the Corn Belt in August and September were less than in the same months of 1950, reflecting the 9 percent decrease in numbers on feed July 1. Fed cattle marketings are likely to hold up well during the rest of 1951, though remaining a little below the comparable period last year.

Prices of cattle have been near ceiling-equivalent levels, except for some seasonal widening of the spread between grades. Prices are expected to continue fairly steady, although some weakening is possible at times of largest marketings.

Even with the large marketings that are expected in the fourth quarter, cattle slaughter for 1951 will likely total no more than 18 million head. This would be the smallest annual slaughter in at least 8 years. Cattle numbers are rising. By next January 1 there will be around 90 million head of cattle and calves on farms, 6 million more than a year earlier, and a new record high.

Largely because of the reduced cattle slaughter, meat consumption per person has been slightly smaller this year than last. Larger consumption of pork has not entirely offset a smaller consumption of other meats. With a large cattle slaughter and beef supply in the last quarter, consumption of all meat per person for 1951 may about equal the 144 pounds of last year.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Wholesale and retail prices for dairy products have varied within a very narrow range for several months. Prices at both levels of distribution are substantially higher than a year ago. At wholesale, the increases over September 1950 levels range from 7 percent for butter to 25 percent for nonfat dry milk. Wholesale prices for manufactured dairy products have been about at the equivalent of U. S. Department of Agriculture support prices on manufacturing milk and butterfat. However, to date this year only moderate quantities of nonfat dry milk and small quantities of butter and cheese have been purchased.

The price received by farmers for milk delivered to plants and dealers has increased seasonally from the June level. The price of butterfat has been essentially unchanged since last winter. In September, the U. S. average price for whole milk delivered to plants and dealers was \$4.60 per hundred pounds, compared to \$4.02 a year earlier, the rise of 14 percent reflecting substantially increased demand. The butterfat price was 68.4 cents per pound this September, compared to 60.9 cents in September 1950. September 1951 prices were equivalent to 93 percent of parity for milk and 90 percent for butterfat.

The U. S. average rate of milk production per cow in crop reporters' herds has declined less than usual this year from the June peak. This has been largely the result of better pastures in the important dairy sections of the Northeast and the Midwest. In a number of southern States, however, dry weather caused a decline in milk flow per cow. Total milk production in August was larger than a year earlier, after running smaller in every previous month except May. Milk production in the rest of the year probably will average about the same as a year earlier, so that total milk production in 1951 probably will be in the neighborhood of 120 billion pounds compared to 120.6 billion pounds in 1950. Consumption of milk in fluid form has been somewhat larger than a year earlier despite substantially higher prices. With lower farm output of milk to date this year, therefore, the amounts available for manufactured products have been smaller.

Storage stocks of dairy products are now about at the seasonal peak. The accumulation of stocks this past summer was relatively large but total holdings are somewhat smaller than a year earlier when the USDA held large quantities of butter and cheese, later sold into domestic channels. Stocks of cream, normally stored mainly for off-season ice cream production, on September 1 were more than double those of a year earlier.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Egg prices have receded from the mid-September level, which is the peak to date. If the mid-September prices received by farmers should prove to be the peak for the year, it would be the second time that the high point had come so early in the season. The 1950 peak in prices paid to farmers came in December which is unusually late. The September 1951 price of 55.0 cents per dozen as the U. S. average compares with 40.4 cents a year earlier, and 57.7 cents as the 1950 mid-month peak in December.

September has in recent years been the month of lowest egg production on farms. The month of lowest production, however, is not necessarily the month of highest egg prices. The timing of the peak price is also affected by (a), the time lag between production and final sale, (b), the extent to which egg supplies from cold storage supplement current production, and by (c), the seasonally changing proportions of large, top-quality eggs in the total supply. This year, the second of these three factors is clearly different from 1950, since storage holdings of shell eggs in 35 important cities on September 29, 1951 were 46 percent below a year earlier.

Marketings of both young and mature farm chickens are near their seasonal peaks. Sales of broilers from specialized enterprises are also at a high level, reflecting the near-record broiler chick placements of mid-summer. These large marketings have been absorbed at prices averaging somewhat lower than in preceding months. In mid-September, U. S. average chicken prices received by farmers were 25.2 cents per pound (live); a month earlier, they were 26.0 cents; two months earlier, 27.0 cents; 12 months earlier, 24.5 cents.

The usual movement into cold storage has begun for those classes of chickens whose slaughter is sharply seasonal, but at present it is possible that the accumulation may also include significant quantities of broilers and fryers.

Main-season young turkeys from the record 1951 crop are already being marketed in volume. Despite the estimated 16 percent increase from last year in the number of turkeys raised, the mid-September price of 36.3 cents per pound (live) was almost 3 cents higher than a year earlier. A factor in the early season demand was military procurement to supply overseas requirements, which are expected to be satisfied well in advance of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

FATS, OILS AND OILSEEDS

Prices of the principal edible oils--cottonseed and soybeans--declined from August to September, when they averaged about the same as in July. Probably the most important factor in the temporary upward movement of prices for these oils in August was the expectation that the Government would support the price of 1951-crop cottonseed oil at a level considerably above that prevailing in July. This was substantiated when the Government announced on August 17 that it would purchase cottonseed products at specified prices. However, the agreement requires that crushers must sell certain quantities of the meal and linters as well as oil to the Government at stipulated prices. Consequently, the possible total return from all three products will determine whether or not crushers will offer these products to the Government under the program or sell them on the open market. Apparently, crushers at present can get a larger total return by selling all three products on the open market, although they are receiving nearly 1 cent per pound less for the oil than the price specified in the CCC contract.

Prices for lard increased from August to September. Prices dropped sharply toward the end of August, paralleling the movement in prices of edible oils, but increased sharply in the latter half of September. Demand for lard, both domestic and export, has been heavy this year and stocks are below the level of a year earlier. Lard supplies normally increase considerably beginning about October.

Linseed oil (and flaxseed) prices advanced sharply in September, probably reflecting a delay in harvesting and marketing flaxseed due to wet weather, and the announcement in mid-September that 1952-crop flaxseed will be supported at a national average of \$3.77 per bushel for No. 1, compared with \$2.65 for the 1951 crop.

Prices of inedible tallow and greases in September remained about the same as a month earlier.

The index of wholesale prices of 26 major fats and oils (excluding butter) in September was 190 percent of the 1935-39 average, compared with 183 in August, 251 in February (the peak since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea), and 191 in September 1950.

Output of edible vegetable oils in the year beginning October 1, 1951, may be about 10 percent larger than the record 1950-51 production of 4,400 million pounds. The production estimate includes the oil equivalent of soybeans and peanuts exported for crushing.

Based on the expected production of cotton lint, output of cottonseed is estimated at 6,990 thousand tons compared with 4,078 thousand tons in 1950. Production of soybeans for beans is placed at 273 million

Lard production in the year beginning October 1951 may be larger than the 2,800 million pounds produced a year earlier, but production of butter probably will be smaller than the 1,500 million pounds estimated for 1950-51.

Production of 1951-crop flaxseed was indicated at 35.0 million bushels on September 1, 3.0 million bushels less than on July 1 and 4.3 million below last year. Production of flaxseed and linseed oil in 1951-52 will be less than disappearance, and the relatively large Government stocks will decline somewhat.

CORN AND OTHER FEED

Prices of feed grains in September held close to August levels, while prices of many of the byproduct feeds advanced. Feed grain prices have been 10 to 15 percent higher this summer than a year earlier and have been generally above the price supports for the 1951 crops. During the season ahead, feed prices will be influenced by prospective strong demand and higher price supports on the 1951 crops than in 1950. The national average price support for 1951 corn is \$1.57 per bushel. Corn prices, which are seasonally high in summer, have been above the support level in recent months. Sorghum grain prices have been low during 1950-51 in relation to prices of other feed grains, but they probably will be relatively higher in 1951-52. The 1951 price support is 30 cents per 100 pounds higher than last year, and the supply is about one-third smaller.

Prices of high-protein feeds this summer were lower in relation to feed grains than in the past two years. Prices of a number of these feeds advanced from August to September. In the case of soybean meal, the advance apparently reflected a year-end reduction in supplies. With the start of crushing of the big 1951 cottonseed crop, cottonseed meal prices have dropped well below soybean meal, whereas cottonseed meal prices have been unusually high during most of the 1950-51 feeding season.

On September 21 the Secretary of Agriculture announced increased loan rates on 1952 crops of oats, barley, and grain sorghums. The national average price support rates for the crops are as follows: Oats 78 cents per bushel for No. 3 or better; barley \$1.22 per bushel for No. 2 or better and grain sorghums \$2.38 per cwt. for No. 2 or better.

Although the 1951 season has been generally favorable for feed crops, a little smaller production of feed grains is expected than in the past two years. The 1951-52 supply of all feed concentrates, including the grains and byproduct feeds, was estimated in early September at 176 million tons. This would be 3 percent below the big supplies of the two preceding seasons, but much larger than in most years prior to 1949. However, with livestock numbers increasing, more feed probably will be used in 1951-52 than in any feeding season since the World War II peak. Total consumption of feed grains probably will exceed the 1951 production of 120 million tons, resulting in smaller carry-over stocks at the end of the 1951-52 season. The 1951-52 corn supply is estimated at close to 3.9 billion bushels, about 100 million bushels smaller than last year.

The hay supply was estimated in early September at 129 million tons, which would be larger than in any past year. Hay supplies are fully ample for the livestock to be fed throughout most of the northern part of the country, but supplies are short in areas of the South. Pastures continued better than average in early September in most of the Northern part of the country, but were poor in the South.

FRUIT

With large harvest-time supplies of deciduous fruits in October, grower prices for most such fruits will be seasonally low and average somewhat under 1950 prices. However, grower prices for the 1951 cranberry crop are expected to average a little higher this fall than last.

Grower prices for apples probably will decline a little further in October as marketing of the larger production of fall varieties continues heavy. Later in the fall as marketing shifts to winter varieties, of which production is smaller this year than in 1950, some rise in prices is expected.

Exports to various countries will again be facilitated by an export-payment program similar to the 1950-51 program. It is anticipated also that exports from the United States to the United Kingdom will be larger in the 1951-52 season than in 1950-51 because of a change in British import policy for apples. Grower prices for pears during October and November probably will not change much from September levels.

Prices that growers will receive for grapes this fall are expected to continue low mainly because of large supplies. The production of raisins is expected to be sharply increased over last year's low pack.

Conditions are favorable for growers to receive somewhat higher prices for cranberries this fall than in the fall of 1950. The 1951 crop is about 7 percent smaller than the record 1950 crop and carry-over stocks of cranberries are much smaller than a year ago.

Both grower and terminal market auction prices for oranges and grapefruit are expected to decline in October and November as movement of the new crop from Florida gains in volume. On September 1, 1951, condition of the Florida orange and grapefruit crops was excellent. Stocks of canned citrus fruits and juices in packers' hands in Florida on September 1, 1951 were more than 2-1/2 times as large as stocks on that date in 1950. Stocks of frozen orange juice were nearly twice as large as a year earlier.

The 1951 crops of deciduous fruits and tree nuts are about one-tenth larger than the 1950 crops. Larger packs of dried fruits, canned fruits, canned fruit juices, and frozen fruit juices are expected in 1951 than in 1950, for both deciduous and citrus. The pack of frozen fruits, excluding juices, may be about as large as in 1950.

WHEAT

With the heavy seasonal movement to market, spring wheat prices currently are little above the low of the season. The price of No. 1 Dark Northern Spring at Minneapolis on October 3 was \$2.35. This is a cent below the effective loan rate of \$2.36 (\$2.46 less 10 cents for storage), and 7 cents above the low point reached on July 25.

Now that the heavy movement of winter wheat is past, current prices of winter wheat have advanced to above the effective loan level. The price of No. 2 Hard Winter wheat at Kansas City on October 3 was \$2.38 which is 4 cents above the effective loan rate of \$2.34 (\$2.44 less 10 cents for storage).

United States average prices received by farmers for all wheat in mid-September was \$2.07, which is 2 cents above a month earlier, 13 cents above a year earlier, and slightly below the effective national average loan of about \$2.08. Prices of winter wheat, which constitutes three-fourths of our total production, are usually lowest in June, July, or August, after which they advance seasonally. In 8 of the past 12 marketing years, since the loan program was inaugurated, prices averaged highest in March or later. In one year they averaged highest in February, in 2 years they averaged highest in January, and in one year the high came in December.

On September 13 the Department announced that because of widespread weather damage to wheat in the field, the 1951-crop price support program has been extended to cover No. 4, No. 5 and sample grade. This will enable farmers to hold such damaged wheat until it can be marketed in an orderly manner.

The September estimate of the wheat crop was practically unchanged from a month earlier. The estimate of the spring crop was raised only about one million bushels and no new estimate for winter wheat was made. Indicated total supplies thus remain about unchanged at 1,434 million bushels. This includes a crop of 999 million bushels, probable imports of feeding quality wheat of about 40 million, and the carry-over of 395 million. Supplies of this size have been exceeded in only six years. Domestic disappearance in 1951-52 may total about 748 million bushels, which would leave about 685 million for exports and carry-over. If exports total about the same as the 366 million in 1950-51 about 320 million would remain for carry-over July 1, 1952. This would be 75 million bushels below the carry-over July 1, 1951, but only slightly below the 334 million bushel 1941-50 average.

The wheat harvest in Canada is officially forecast at a record of 579 million bushels, 25 percent above last year's big outturn, which had a large proportion of frost-damaged wheat. Exports from Canada in 1951-52, however, may be restricted by limited rail and lake transportation facilities. The acreage in Argentina is reported below that of the last crop and growing conditions have not been favorable because of continued drought. Reduced seedings in Australia are expected to result in a smaller crop than last year.

COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS

For Fresh Market

With supplies of commercial truck crops for fresh market smaller than last year, and with demand stronger than in the fall of 1950, growers are expected to receive substantially higher prices this fall than the relatively low prices of last fall. Of 11 truck crops for fall or early fall harvest for which production has been estimated to date, all but 2 are

expected to be smaller than last year. Aggregate production of these crops is expected to be 17 percent below last fall but 1 percent above the 10-year average. The heaviest reduction in tonnage is in early fall cabbage which last year was produced in heavy surplus and brought disastrously low prices to many growers. The largest percentage reduction from last fall is in the early fall pea crop, which is expected to be about one-third smaller than last year and two-thirds smaller than average. The fall crops of lima beans and cauliflower are the only ones expected to be equal to last year.

For Commercial Processing

Farmers and processors are producing substantially larger supplies of truck crops for commercial processing than last year, in expectation of larger military and civilian demands. The estimated total tonnage of 9 important crops for processing is more than one-fourth larger than last year. Prospects are for larger production than last year for green lima beans, snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, winter and spring spinach, and tomatoes. Smaller crops are in prospect for cabbage, beets, and pimientos.

As of August 31, stocks of most frozen vegetables, and of all items combined, were record large for that date. On the other hand, wholesale stocks of canned vegetables in general were much lower on recent carry-over dates this year than last. Total supplies of canned and frozen vegetables are believed large enough to supply the enlarged military and civilian demands this fall and winter with only moderate increases in price.

POTATOES AND SWEETPOTATOES

For the first time in several years, prospective supplies of potatoes are about in line with demand at current prices. Growers have cut acreage sharply below last year. Also, yields per acre are not expected to equal last year's record. Prices received by farmers for the crop in 1951 probably will average moderately higher than in 1950.

The very short sweetpotato crop this year is expected to result in prices substantially higher than in other recent years. Whether such prices will induce farmers to increase acreage next year will depend in considerable part upon prospects for alternative crops at planting time next spring. The farm labor supply and the weather at planting time will also be significant factors. The 1951 prospective crop of sweetpotatoes is the smallest crop since 1884. Both the total acreage and prospective average yield per acre are down substantially from last year.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS AND PEAS

Although the dry bean crop in 1951 is now expected to be slightly larger than in 1950, farmers probably will receive prices averaging about as high as those received for the 1950 crop. This prospect is based on the stronger demand expected in the 1951-crop-marketing year and the smaller total supplies resulting from the substantial reduction in Government-held stocks accomplished during the 1950-crop-marketing year.

Demand for dry field peas in 1951-52 is not expected to be materially stronger than during the last crop marketing year. Hence, with the prospective crop estimated to be about one-fourth larger than last year's very small crop, prices received by farmers may average somewhat lower than those received for the 1950 crop.

COTTON

Cotton prices declined during August and then began to move slowly upward in September. The decline in prices reflected the larger supply of cotton which will be available this crop year. The rise in price was caused in part by removal of restrictions on the quantity of exports and by the current disposition of farmers to hold their cotton in view of present market conditions.

On September 5 the average 10 spot market price for Middling 15/16 inch cotton was 34.10 cents per pound, the lowest since June 30, 1950. By October 2 this price had risen to 36.73 cents. The price received by farmers for cotton was 33.73 cents on September 15, 1951, 9.44 cents below the record high of 43.17 cents on April 15, 1951, while the parity price remained at the July 15 level of 33.85 cents. The loan rate this season is 31.71 cents a pound for Middling 15/16 inch cotton at average location.

In contrast to last year when only about 8,000 bales were placed in the Government loan, farmers are expected to place considerable quantities under loan with the Commodity Credit Corporation by the time this year's crop is completely harvested. Most of this cotton, will probably move out of the loan by next summer. Through September 20, about 175,000 bales had been placed under loan.

The September 10 report on the cotton crop estimates production at 17,291 thousand bales of 500 pounds, about the same as the August 8 report. Acreage for harvest is put at 28,544,000 acres. Based on this report, the August 1 carry-over of about 2.2 million bales and imports of 200 thousand bales, the cotton supply in the United States during 1951-52 is estimated at 19.5 million running bales.

The average daily rate of domestic mill consumption of cotton in August was 37.7 thousand bales compared with 32.0 thousand in July. The August figure is 6.7 percent less than consumption during August 1950.

Exports during July were 129.1 thousand bales, bringing the total for the year beginning August 1, 1950, to 4.1 million bales, or about 29 percent less than in 1949-50. Virtually all restrictions have now been removed from the export of cotton to friendly countries. Lint cotton was placed under general licensing on September 17 and open-end allocations were established for linters on September 10.

The 1951-52 world cotton supply is now estimated at about 47 million bales. This is approximately 7 percent more than the world supply last year, and about 42 percent more than last year's record world disappearance of 33.2 million bales. While no official estimate of 1951-52 world cotton consumption is yet available, the International Cotton Advisory Committee has estimated an increase in world carry-out stocks this year of only 3 million bales.

Prices of cotton textiles in the United States have decreased and during August the prices of 17 constructions of grey goods averaged about 6.31 cents less than in July. Mill margins, the spread between the price of a pound of cotton and its approximate cloth equivalent, have decreased as a result of this large decrease in textile prices.

WOOL

The 1951-52 wool selling season in the British Dominions--Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa--opened late in August. Prices at the auctions continued the decline which began late last March, until late in September, when they turned upward. Auction prices for most wools in late September were below pre-Korea levels and were 55 to 65 percent below the peak levels of last March.

Between mid-August and late September, prices quoted for Australian 64s, 70s good topmaking wool at Boston declined from \$2.20 to \$1.70 per pound, clean basis (American yield), in bond at Boston. The price of domestic territory staple 64s and finer wool, which was quoted at \$2.20 for the week ended August 17, was quoted at \$1.70 for the week ended September 28.

During September, the average price received by growers for shorn wool declined for the sixth month in succession. Prices received by growers at mid-September averaged 66.9 cents per pound, grease basis. The mid-month average for August was 77.1 cents and for September last year was 65.6 cents.

Consumption of apparel wool in the United States during the first half of the year was only slightly lower than last year. During January-June domestic woolen and worsted mills consumed 208 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool, about 2 percent less than for the same months of last year. Increased consumption of apparel wool for military items just about offset the sharp decline in consumption for civilian uses. The rate of consumption of carpet wool continued to decline. The weekly rate of 1.6 million pounds in June compared with 1.8 million pounds per week during the previous month and 3.7 million pounds during June of last year.

The substitution of other materials for wool in the spinning of carpet yarn, particularly of rayon, has increased rapidly during the past year. During May, rayon represented 28 percent of all fiber consumed for the spinning of carpet yarn on the woolen and worsted systems compared with only 3 percent a year earlier.

Imports of apparel (dutiable) wool have been substantially higher than last year. During the first 7 months of the year, imports of such wool for consumption totaled 182 million pounds, clean basis, compared with 142 million pounds last year. Imports of apparel wool, however, declined gradually from March through July. Imports of carpet (duty-free) wool, however, have been substantially lower. Only 72 million pounds of such wool were imported during the first half of the year. This was about half as much as was imported during the same period of last year.

TOBACCO

Flue-cured tobacco prices this season have averaged lower than the record level for last year's crop. The 1951 crop was nearly three-fifths marketed by October 1 and prices averaged 50.5 cents per pound--8 percent less than in the comparable period last season. Of the leaf marketed so far this season, a larger proportion than last year has been of low quality. This has been a major factor tending to depress the average price in relation to a year ago. The total supply of flue-cured tobacco for 1951-52 will be at a record level. Domestic use of flue-cured tobacco in cigarette manufacture will continue high and exports are expected to show an increase above last year's. Cigarette output in the first 8 months of 1951 was 5 percent higher than in the same period of 1950.

Most Burley tobacco also goes into cigarettes. Burley auctions usually begin around the first of December. This year's crop is moderately larger than last year's. However, stocks are lower and the total Burley supply for 1951-52 will be only slightly larger than in 1950-51. The support level for the 1951 Burley crop is 49.8 cents per pound--9 percent above last year's. The increase reflects mostly the rise in parity index over the past year. The Burley support level is calculated at 90 percent of its September parity price. The 1950 Burley crop averaged 48.9 cents per pound.

Snuff and chewing tobacco are important outlets for the fire-cured and dark air-cured types. During the first 8 months of 1951 output of chewing tobacco held about even with that in the same period of 1950, but snuff was a little lower. Auctions for the fire-cured and dark air-cured types begin in the late fall and the first of the year. The 1951 production of these types is a little larger than last year's. The 1951 support levels for fire-cured and dark air-cured (computed at 75 and 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ percent of the Burley loan level) are 37.4 and 33.2 cents per pound respectively. The average prices received by farmers for the 1950 fire-cured and dark air-cured crops were 31.1 and 24.6 cents per pound respectively. The inferior quality of the 1950 crop pulled down the general price average¹ last season.

The 1951 cigar filler and binder crops are indicated at about 9 and 18 percent below last year's while shade-grown wrapper production is very nearly as large as in 1950. Tax-paid withdrawals of large cigars in the first 8 months of the year were 5 percent ahead of those in the same period a year earlier.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco from the United States during January-July 1951 totaled about 191 million pounds (declared weight)--practically the same as in the same 7 month period last year. The 1951 calendar year total is expected to exceed that of 1950.

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